

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5509

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1472

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DEN UYL, J.M.)

SUBJ: DEN UYL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: STATE 57252

1. DURING MARCH 19 MEETING WITH DIRK RINGNALDA, SECRETARY GENERAL IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, DCM INQUIRED WHETHER RINGNALDA HAD RECEIVED A REPLY THROUGH DUTCH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO THE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF PRIMIN DEN UYL FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON MAY 14. RINGNALDA REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE AND WAS THEN APPRISED OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY MARCH 14 OF THE PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE DEN UYL AND HOST A WORKING DINNER FOR HIM SAME EVENING AS WELL AS SECRETARY'S AGREEMENT TO OFFICE CALL BY THE PRIMIN AND OFFER TO HOST A LUNCHEON FOR HIM ALSO ON MAY 14. DCM SAID THAT NETHERLANDS EMBASSY HAD BEEN ASKED TO CONFIRM DATE, FOLLOWING WHICH DEPARTMENT WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH EMBASSY AGAIN ON SUBJECT OR PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS. DCM ADDED THAT SHOULD DEN UYL WISH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL TO ACCOMPANY HIM HE WOULD OF COURSE BE WELCOME.

2. RINGNALDA TOOK CAREFUL NOTE AND SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH FONOFF AND THEN HAVE A FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY. HE CONFIRMED EMBASSY'S INFORMATION THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY OF VAN DER STOEL BEING
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PRESENT IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 14 SINCE HE WOULD BE

ACCOMPANYING QUEEN JULIANA ON HER STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA AT THAT TIME. ACCORDING TO RINGNALDA, DEN UYL AND VAN DER STOEL HAD TALKED ABOUT THE WASHINGTON VISIT AND THERE WAS NO RPT NO PROBLEM BETWEEN THEM ABOUT IT.

3. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION WITH DCM MORNING OF MARCH 20, RINGNALDA SAID HE HAD ELICITED FROM FONOFF THAT AMB. TAMMENOMS BAKKER HAD SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO FONMIN VAN DER STOEL STATING THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD AGREED TO RECEIVE PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL ON MAY 14, MENTIONING THE OTHERPROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS, BUT NOTING THAT THERE WAS NO INVITATION AS SUCH FROM THE PRESIDENT. INDICATING THAT TAMMENOMS BAKKER'S CABLE WAS BEING HELD VERY CLOSELY IN THE FONOFF, RINGNALDA ASKED HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED.

4. DCM EXPLAINED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MENTION OF AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT AS SUCH BECAUSE THE NETHERLANDS HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO REQUEST A MEETING OF PRIMIN DEN UYL WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE PRESIDENT HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY BY AGREEING TO THE MEETING AND BY ALSO INVITING THE PRIME MINISTER TO HAVE A WORKING DINNER WITH HIM. IN SHORT, THE LACK OF A FORMAL INVITATION WAS A NON-QUESTION AND SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY HINDER PROCEEDING WITH THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.

5. RINGNALDA AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE TO DEN UYL, WHOM HE WOULD NEXT SEE AT NOON ON MARCH 24, THAT, WITH PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE, COORDINATED AND SYNCHRONIZED PRESS RELEASES BE MADE RE THE VISIT BY THE HAGUE AND WASHINGTON SOME TIME IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS OR SO. DCM SAID HE THOUGHT WASHINGTON WOULD REACT FAVORABLY TO THIS PROPOSAL AND UNDERTOOK TO COMMUNICATE IT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ASK FOR A REPLY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BEFORE RINGNALDA'S MARCH 24 MEETING WITH DEN UYL.

6. RINGNALDA SAID CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THERE WAS SOME SENSITIVITY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OVER THE SUBSTANTIVE DIMENSIONS OF DEN UYL'S VISIT DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE FONMIN WOULD NOT BE PRESENT. RINGNALDA BELIVED, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THIS DIFFICULTY COULD BE SURMOUNTED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN THE MEANWHILE HE THOUGHT IT BEST FOR THE EMBASSY TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE AND NOT RPT NOT RAISE THE SUBJECT OF THE DEN UYL VISIT IN ANY OF ITS CONTACTS WITH THE FONOFF.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR EMBASSY TO INFORM RINGNALDA, IF POSSIBLE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS

MARCH 24, THAT WASHINGTON AGREES TO PRESS RELEASES IN THE HAGUE AND WASHINGTON SOME TIME IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, EXACT DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT AFTER DEN UYL HAS GIVEN HIS PERSONAL OK. AFTER RINGNALDA'S MEETING WITH DEN UYL WE INTEND TO POINT OUT TO RINGNALDA THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL NEED TO BE NOTIFIED BY THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY OF DEN UYL'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY AND WORKING DINNER AND LUNCHEON ON MAY 14. IN ORDER TO TAKE CARE OF FONOFF PROBLEM, ALL PUBLIC REFERENCES SHOULD BE TO UNOFFICIAL VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL.
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